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RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE 7757
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 9196
RUFHOLD/AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE 6429
RUEKJCS/ SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE 3214
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EXDIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/4/87 (SHERMAN, E.)

TAGS: PINR, PDIP, PINS, PINT, PORS, CASC, GA
SUBJECT: GAMBIA COUP: CONTINGENCY EVACUATION PLANNING
REF: DAKAR 6178
MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. (S) AS A PART OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR A POSSIBLE
AMERICAN EFFORT TO EFFECT EVACUATION OF AMCITS AND
FRIENDLY FOREIGN NATIONALS CURRENTLY UNABLE TO DEPART

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BANJUL, THE DEPARTMENT TOOK THE FOLLOWING STEPS AUGUST 3:

-- A. HAD OUR AMBASSADOR IN BANJUL ASCERTAIN THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT JAWARA TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY SUCH CONTINGENCY PLAN;

-- B. HAD OUR AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR ASK SENEGALESE AUTHORITIES WHAT THEIR ATTITUDE WOULD BE AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD PERMIT THE USE OF SENEGALESE FACILITIES, E.G., DAKAR AIRPORT, IN THE EVENT THE USG EMBARKED ON SUCH AN EFFORT;

-- C. INFORMED THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN LONDON VIA A TELEPHONE CALL FROM UNDER SECRETARY STODESS TO WEST AFRICA DIRECTOR MCCRAE THAT THE USG WAS CONTEMPLATING A

POSSIBLE EFFORT TO EFFECT EVACUATION WITH USG RESOURCES; AND

-- D. INFORMED THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF USG CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THIS REGARD.

2. (S) PRESIDENT JAWARA WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE USG USE OF ITS OWN MEANS TO EFFECT AN EVACUATION. HE ASKED FOR TIME TO REFLECT ON A POSSIBLE AMERICAN EFFORT AND TO CONSULT WITH THE SENEGALESE MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE GAMBIA AND SENIOR SENEGALESE POLITICAL AUTHORITY. HE ASKED THAT WE MAKE NO DECISION BEFORE 1200Z (0800 HOURS EDT).

3. (S) THE SENEGALESE PRESIDENT INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO POSSIBLE AMERICAN ACTION AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT THE USE OF SENEGALESE FACILITIES, INCLUDING DAKAR AIRPORT. THE SENEGALESE ASKED FOR SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE SO THAT THEY COULD NOTIFY SENEGALESE MILITARY FORCES BOTH IN SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA OF OUR PLANS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE PRESIDENT GAVE HIS PERMISSION FOR ADVANCE TEAM MEMBERS TO POSITION THEMSELVES IN DAKAR. HE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OR COMPETENT US MILITARY AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL INFORMATION DIRECTLY

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TO THE DAKAR CONTROL TOWER.

4. (S) THE BRITISH MENTIONED THEIR PLAN TO SEND A C-130 TO DAKAR AS PER REFTEL.

5. (S) AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 HOURS EDT A HOLD WAS PLACED ON THE MOVEMENT OF ANY USG PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AT LEAST 12 HOURS.

6. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HAIG

END OF MESSAGE

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